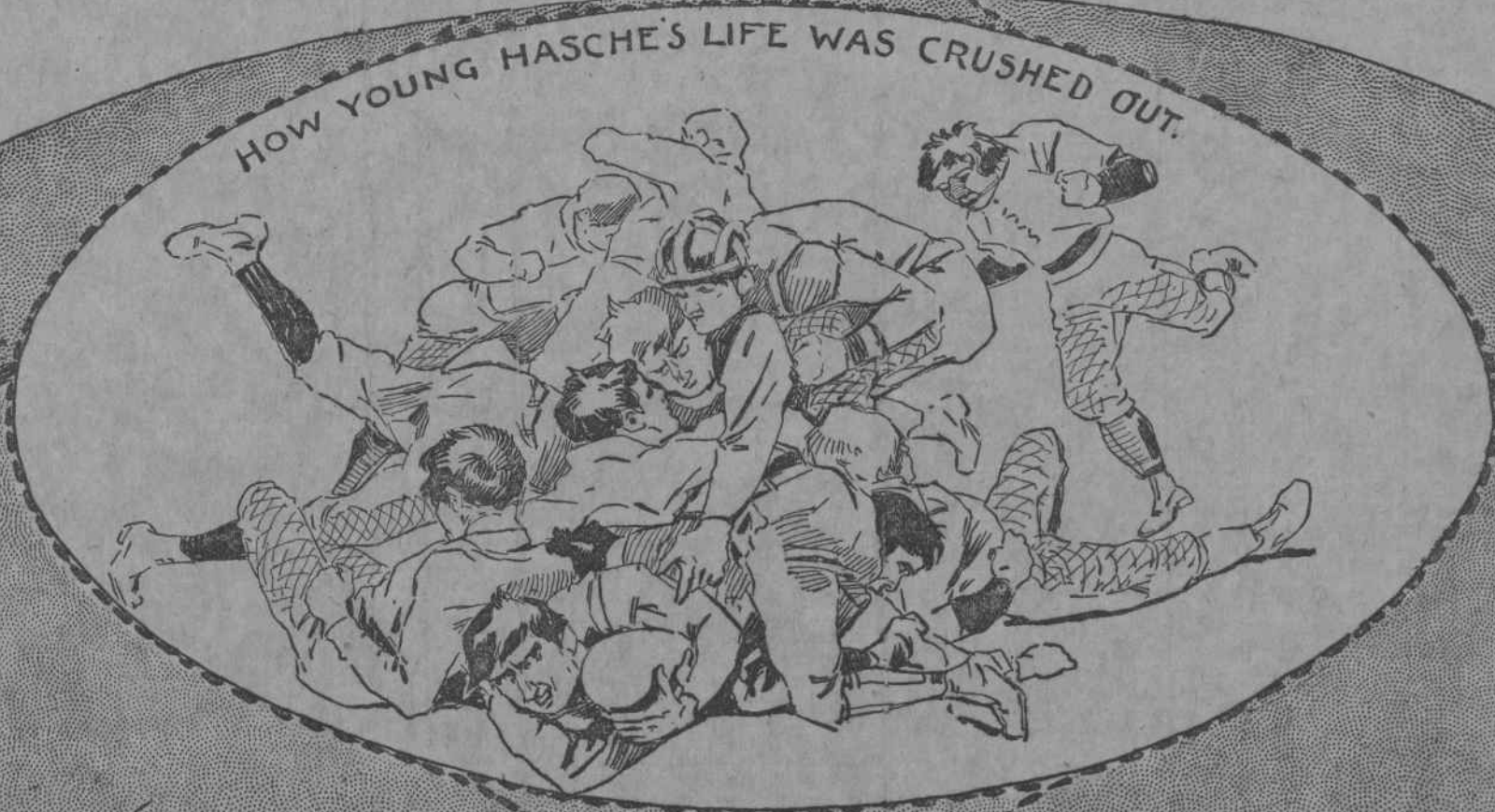


# A LAW TO MAKE FOOTBALL A CRIME!

## The Three Recent Deaths on the Football Field Result in a Bill in Georgia's Legislature Forbidding the Game as Brutal and Barbarous.

THREE lives have been sacrificed to the brutality of football, as played by the American college teams, thus far in the season of 1897, with three weeks of the hardest play yet to come. An incomplete list of casualties on the field show nearly fifty cases of serious injury. Minor injuries are so numerous that no count can be made. A feature of the public bulletins of the game is the stereotyped line, "Man hurt," and it is shown at regular intervals not more than three minutes apart during the progress of the great university games.

ball. He struck on his head, and died the next day from concussion of the brain, which was followed by total paralysis. The Georgia football team was, at once disbanded, and there was a revival of interest in the Anti-Football bill, pending before the Legislature, of which Representative Cole is the father. State Senator Bell also introduced a bill prohibiting the game at any place. The Cole bill refers to games where admission is charged only. A joint and concurrent resolution is also pending before the Legislature, urging the



All of this is the result of the system of "massed plays" that has come into vogue of late years. "Bucking the center" is the slang of the field. Football under this system becomes a question of the weight and mere brute force of the opposing team. A Cornell professor says that the football championship could be settled on a scales, and much suffering thereby averted.

The first tragedy of the gridiron occurred on Sunday, October 24, on an open field near Astoria, on Long Island, opposite One Hundredth street, New York. Andrew Hasche, a nineteen-year-old New York boy, was playing with the Yorkville team. He was thrown while running with the ball, and no less than eight of the opposing team fell upon him. His spine was dislocated, and he died in a hospital the next day, never having regained consciousness.

On the same day Louis Cordona, a New York boy, while playing at Bayonne, New Jersey, collided with a tree on the grounds, fractured his skull and died that night.

The incident that has, however, aroused public feeling to a realization of the necessity of a change in the system of play was the killing of Richard Von Gammon, of the Georgia State University, on Saturday, October 30, at Atlanta. Von Gammon was a giant in size, and a football celebrity of national reputation. He was thrown in a "tackle" while running with the

No. 1—SHOWING JUST HOW HASCHE'S BACKBONE WAS BROKEN AT ASTORIA, L. I.

### TEXT OF THE GEORGIA ANTI-FOOTBALL BILL.

"From and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to engage in any prize or match game of football, or any other game of like character; that it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to come together and play a prize or match game of football, or any other game of like character in any park or other place in the State where an admission fee is charged for admission during the game."

faculties of all educational institutions in the State to discourage Rugby football by actually prohibiting it.

The entire press of the State has taken the matter up, and the Georgia editors will have plenty of moral support if they pass either of the pending measures.

As usual the sporting writers are to the front defending the game as it is played today, urging that there can be no reform except by unanimous agreement of the coaches and captains.

Walter Camp, the debated coach, is an open advocate of more open play, and a partial withdrawal of the Napoleonic tactics that cause so much trouble, and which are surely bringing the game into disrepute. Incidental American association ball is getting a boost. In this game the ball is kicked. The men do not fight. The quickest and most active men win the goals.

There was a strong anti-Rugby feeling among the faculty of Cornell last Fall, but the athletic element at Ithaca was strong enough to put a quietus upon the reform movement.

Dr. George F. Shrady in discussing the agitation against Rugby spoke feelingly to a Journal report, and said that the tone of the American colleges was being steadily lowered by their open encouragement of brutality in many forms—football being chief and cane rushes being one of the most serious, yet dangerous. The country is to-day filled with the victims of college sports.

### THE AUTHOR OF THE ANTI-FOOTBALL BILL WILL PUSH IT.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 5.—I will get my bill before the House at the first opportunity, which will be at an early day, and it will pass. It was acted on Wednesday by the General Judiciary Committee, and a unanimous report favoring its passage was agreed on. I believe it will pass the House with very little opposition. I have not met a single member of the Legislature who opposes it. I saw my first game of football a year ago, and became thoroughly disgusted with it. I came right back and introduced my bill. I thought the game I saw between the University of Georgia and the Auburn team was brutal and barbarous in the extreme. My object in introducing it was to prevent such tragedies as occurred in Atlanta on last Saturday, and to prevent boys in schools from being injured, maimed, bruised and unfitted for study, if not injured for life. My only regret is that I did not get the bill through last session, thereby saving young Von Gammon his life and his family great sorrow.

W. P. COLE,  
Representative from Carroll County.

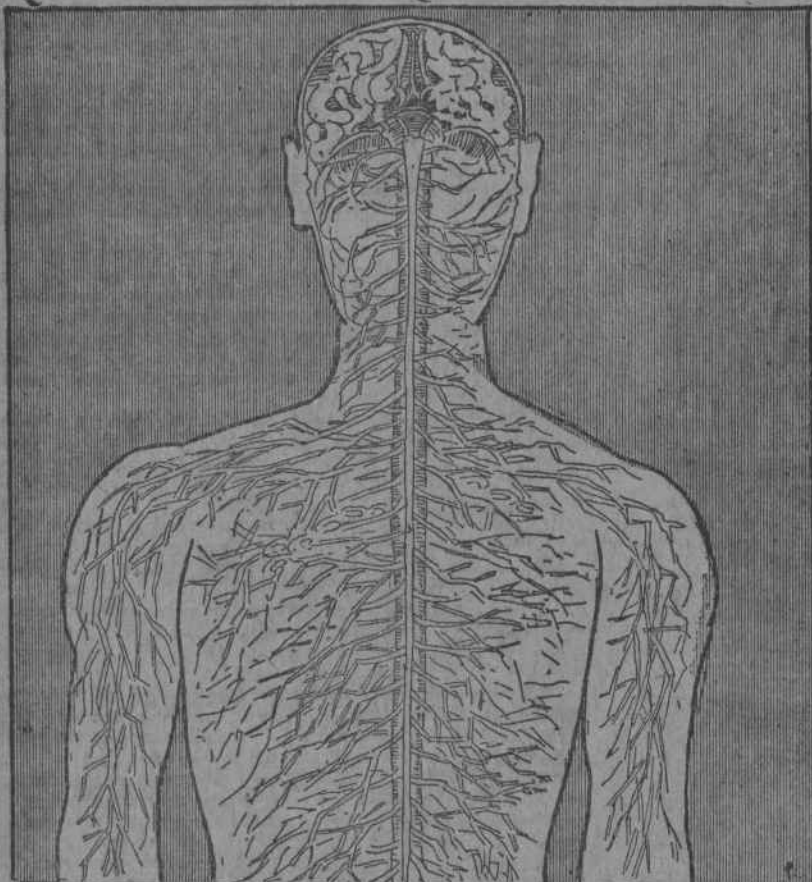
### THE COLLEGE AUTHORITIES SHOULD CALL A HALT, SAYS DR. GEO. F. SHRADY.

The football season of 1897 has three weeks yet to run, and the score to date is three killed and fully two score wounded, many of the latter injured for life, doubtless.

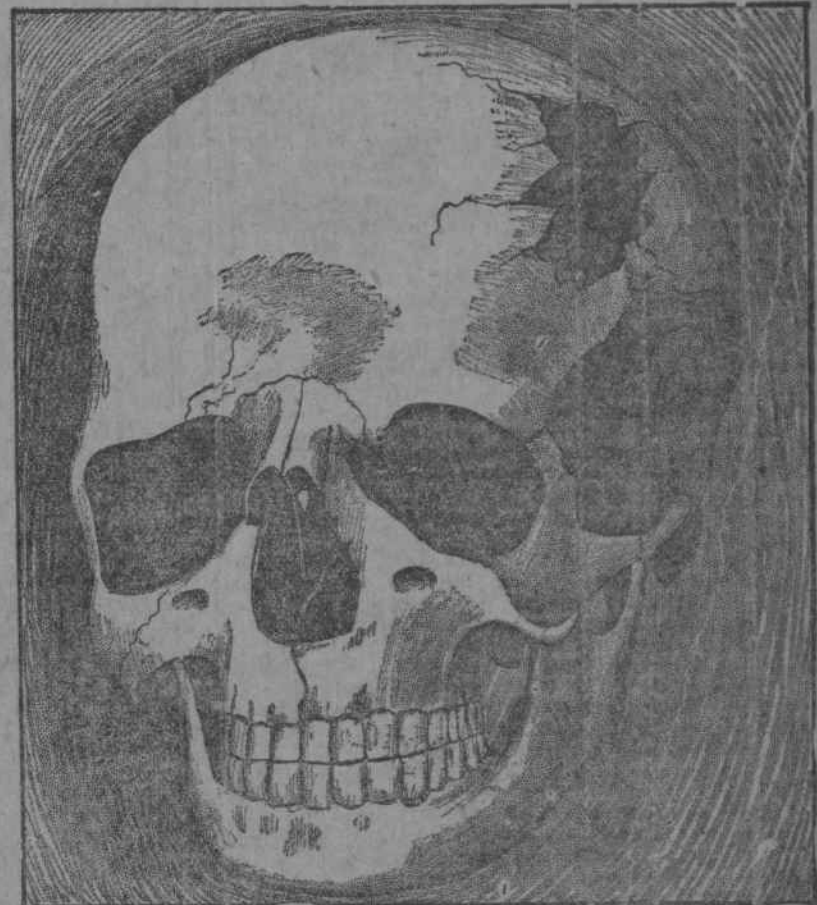
Last year there were three lives sacrificed on the football field, and the newspapers reported an appalling total of 125 serious and permanent injuries to players.

The tribute is to great too pay, to a false idea, that to be manly, courageous and athletic our young men must be brutal. The fact that thousands attend these games and applaud the exhibitions of brutality only show that we are going backward. To the public the charm of football seems to lie in the fact that the participants are liable to all injuries known to surgery, with the possible exception of knife and gunshot wounds, and these, it would seem, are likely to be added in time.

I believe that the remedy lies with the college authorities, not in the enactment of a law. It is nonsense to say that specially trained athletes are not liable to injury on the football field. When the players are equally matched the dangers are as great, whether the team be made of weak schoolboys or the giants of the universities.



No. 2—How Von Gammon Was Killed by Concussion of the Brain—Complete Paralysis.



No. 3—How Cordona Was Killed at Bayonne, N. J., by a Fracture of the Skull.